

WRITING ASSESSMENT
Write your final composition here.

G 20a

The time has come; Gateway Tests will be administered tomorrow. These tests will determine if a student is qualified to graduate from high school, but should these tests be the sole determining factor of whether a student gets the high school diploma? The answer to this question is yes, pure and simple. The Gateway Tests should be given for the following three reasons: these tests prepare students for college admissions tests, allows for the teaching of test taking strategies, and provides statewide consistency for material that is taught.

First, exit tests prepare students for taking standardized college admissions test such as the ACT. These tests are great practice for the ACT, because they allow pupils to see another testing format than the one an educator would give in the classroom. These examinations also allow for students to experience taking a test in a controlled environment. These experiences reduce stress when the time comes to take a very important test.

Next, Gateway Tests allow for time to be allotted to teach test taking strategies. Teachers take more time in teaching the proper way to take a test than normally would be allowed. This gives students an opportunity to learn valuable skills that will be very ^{important} ~~valuable~~ during the university years. If it wasn't for exit tests, these materials would be buried deep under a stack of material that would

probably never be taught.

Finally, tests, such as the Gateways, provide consistency in the material taught by educators state wide. These examinations require that teachers provide instruction on certain subject matter, rather than teaching children as they see fit. These tests ensure that students across the State of Tennessee are receiving the same quality ~~of~~ education. This is the most important reason why statewide exit tests should remain an intrical part of the public education spectrum.

In conclusion, exit exams are needed because they prepare students for college, allow for teaching test taking strategies in school, and provide consistency in the academic material covered. In a time when education is more important than ever, these tests ensure that Tennessee's children can compete with those of other states. Some people may complain that giving these tests ~~is~~ too expensive, but, as a past president of Harvard University once said, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." Children are this nation's future and these tests help ensure that a bright ~~new~~ day is just over the horizon.

Score Point: 5

This response reflects a strong degree of proficiency in persuasive writing skills. The writer clearly agrees that exit tests should be a high school graduation requirement. Three key ideas are cited and coherently developed to support this position. The writer demonstrates a strong persuasive tone through facility in the use of language (testing format, controlled environment, opportunity to learn valuable skills, and an integral part of the public education spectrum). The response is well organized, and the conclusion is thoughtful and effective. Further illustration of the key ideas would be required for a higher score.